

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application, of which claims 1, 2, 4, 8-13 and 15-22 have been finally rejected and claims 3, 5-7 and 14 have been indicated to be allowable. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the final rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicants' counsel wishes to thank Examiner Fletcher for the courtesies extended during the personal interview on July 7, 2004. The following records the substance of the interview.

Each of Applicants' independent claims 1, 8, 11, 17 and 18 have been rejected as obvious over the combination of SAKAMOTO et al. (US 6,396,229) and TAUCHI et al. (US 6,328,136). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration as discussed during the interview.

In particular, Applicants' independent claim 1 recites a controller for a mobile body (for example, item 4 shown in Figure 1) driven by a synchronous motor via a drive unit (for example, item 5 shown in Figure 1). The controller includes a rotor position estimator that estimates a magnetic pole position of a rotor of the motor based on electrical quantities in relation to electric power supplied to the motor, and a mobile body position estimator which estimates the position of the mobile body based on the magnetic pole position estimated by the rotor position estimator. In other words, Applicants' controller estimates the mobile body position based on an estimate of the motor's rotor magnetic pole position.

As discussed during the interview, and as set forth in Applicants' prior replies incorporated by reference herein, it is respectfully submitted that neither

SAKAMOTO nor TAUCHI disclose, among other things, Applicants' claimed mobile body position estimator. Moreover, the combination of these references still does not arrive at Applicants' claimed invention.

Indeed, as the Examiner noted, SAKAMOTO discloses the estimation of a rotor position of a synchronous motor but does not disclose or suggest the estimation of a mobile body position, let alone the manner in which such an estimation would occur. Nor, for its part, does TAUCHI disclose the estimation of a mobile body position.

Applicants agree with the Examiner that TAUCHI discloses a mobile body (for example 2 shown in Figure 11) but, as discussed during the interview, TAUCHI provides for detecting the magnetic pole position of the rotor based on signals from proximity switches (see col. 7, lines 44-46; also see claims 1 and 3). Indeed, TAUCHI uses three proximity switches to detect the positions of specifically configured portions of the rotor's outer periphery (see col. 5, lines 37-45). No teaching or suggestion is found in TAUCHI for estimating the mobile body's position, let alone estimating it based on an estimate of the rotor's magnetic pole positions.

Apparently, the Examiner was relying on the so-called "anomaly determining means" described in TAUCHI for allegedly providing a mobile body position estimator (see col. 11, line 63 - col. 12, line 18). However, as pointed out during the interview, the anomaly determining means merely factors into account the drive sheave rotation detected by the rotation detector and that detected by the field magnetic pole detector to determine errors. It does not estimate the position of the mobile body as in Applicants' claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit independent claim 1 is patentable over SAKAMOTO in view of TAUCHI. Similarly, Applicants' independent claims 8, 11, 17 and 18 likewise recite the use of both a rotor position estimator and a mobile body position estimator and are also patentable over SAKAMOTO in view of TAUCHI et al.

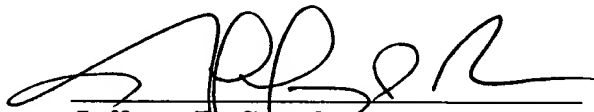
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the final rejection are respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #381NP/50449).

Respectfully submitted,

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